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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/720,280	12/21/2000	Thomas Eckel	MO-6035/LEA-	1062
157	7590	01/21/2004	EXAMINER	
BAYER POLYMERS LLC 100 BAYER ROAD PITTSBURGH, PA 15205			SZEKELY, PETER A	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1714		

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Paper No. 20040112

Application Number: 09/720,280
Filing Date: December 21, 2000
Appellant(s): ECKEL ET AL.

MAILED
JAN 20 2004
GROUP 1200

James R. Franks
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 12/08/03.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Issues*

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) *Grouping of Claims*

The rejection of claims 2-15, 18, 20 and 22-24 stand or fall together because appellant's brief does not include a statement that this grouping of claims does not stand or fall together and reasons in support thereof. See 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7).

(8) *ClaimsAppealed*

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) Prior Art of Record

5,849,827	Bodiger et al.	12-1998
EP 0 728 811	Mitsubishi Chemical	8-1996
	Corporation	

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

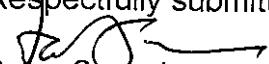
Claims 2-15,18, 20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation EP 0 728 811, in view of Bodiger et al. 5,849,827.

Mitsubishi discloses 40-90 parts by weight of polycarbonate, 1-60 parts by weight of graft copolymer, 0-40 parts by weight of vinyl copolymer, 1-30 parts by weight of phosphazene and 0.05-1.0 parts by weight of PTFE from page 2, line 56, to page 3, line 5. On page 5, lines 15-19, other additives are listed among them other flame retardants and fillers. Bodiger et al. teach polycarbonate, extremely finely divided inorganic powder having a mean particle diameter of 0.1-100 nm and a flame retardant in claim 1. Boehmite, (hydrated alumina), is claimed in claim 8, graft copolymer in claim 16, vinyl copolymers in claim 14 and PTFE is mentioned in column 9, line 16. Flame retardants are listed from column 7, line 56, to column 9, line 12. "The invention is based on the findings that an addition of extremely finely divided inorganic powders together with flame retardants in thermoplastic polycarbonate moulding compositions produces a significant reduction in the burning times and hence a considerable improvement in the flame proofing." See column 1, lines 51-56. It would have been obvious to one having

ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use a filler having an extremely small particle size as the filler in the flame retardant composition of Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation.

(11) Response to Argument

Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation does not teach away from the use of non-phosphazene phosphorus compounds, it merely advises against replacing phosphazenes with other phosphorus containing flame retardants. Additional flame retardants are part of the invention of Mitsubishi. See page 5, lines 17-18. Furthermore, Bodiger et al. teach in column 1 in column 8, lines 20-23, that the use of the finely divided inorganic filler improves the fire retarding performance of all phosphorus containing stabilizers and in column 1, lines 51-56 it is explicitly stated that the improvement occurs regardless which flame retardants are used. Applicants' "consisting essentially of" language does not exclude non-phosphazene flame retardants, since it is not proven that a blend of flame retardants would deleteriously affect the properties or use, which applicants seek in the sole use of the commonly required additive. Furthermore, in spite of applicants protestations to the opposite, the table, on page 27 of applicants' specification, clearly shows that in the presence of a finely divided filler, the flame retardant properties of the compound do not deteriorate, in spite of a 26.67% reduction in the phosphazene concentration. For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

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Primary Examiner
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P.S.
January 12, 2004

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